Preventing trafficking of Indian women and children

†298. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to prevent trafficking of Indian women and children for prostitution; and

(b) the number of cases of trafficking of women and children registered during the last three years and the steps taken by Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human being included children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for trafficking. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking of women and children. The Central Advisory Committee on Combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the States' activities in combating trafficking and prostitution periodically. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing the scheme of 'Ujjawala' wherein prevention of trafficking is included as a specific component. The Ministry also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including trafficked victims and children.

(b) As per the information furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 6402, 5096 and 4087 cases of trafficking related offences were reported during 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Compulsory registration of marriages

299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation from the National Commission for Women for compulsory registration of marriage; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of judgment dated 14.2.2006 in the case of Seema *Vs.* Ashwani Kumar, AIR 2006 SC, 1158, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that marriages of all persons who are citizens of India belonging to various religions should be made compulsorily registrable in their respective States, where the marriage is solemnized. The Legislative Department has called for information from all the State Governments/Union Territories with regard to the compliance of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the judgment given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the said case. At present the Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the aforesaid judgment.

UN assistance for women and children

300. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is receiving any financial assistance from United Nations to address the problems being faced by the women and children, particularly from the below poverty line income groups, both from the rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, whether Central Government is contributing its share of allocation to the above assistance; and

(c) if so, the break-up of funds earmarked by Government and the United Nations during the last three years, and the actual expenditure made in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grants to voluntary organizations for the development of tormented women and children

†301. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided any grant to voluntary organizations for the development of tormented women and children, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any grant has been provided to voluntary organizations in West Bengal also; and

(d) what parameters have been formulated to ensure the proper use of grants provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme for providing grant to voluntary organizations for the development of tormented women and children. However, there are schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for care and protection of women and children.

These schemes for women includes the scheme 'Ujjawala' for prevention of trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, 'STEP' for providing knowledge for skill development to poor and assetless women in traditional sectors such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries etc., "Swadhar" "Short Stay Homes" and "Women Helpline" for relief, protection and rehabilitation of women in distress.

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